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Message Text

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64
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 FEA-02 SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 DRC-01 /128 W
---------- 057352
R 041217Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9262
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0475

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, ECON, SF
SUBJECT: INCREASE IN GASOLINE PRICES

1. EFFECTIVE FEB 2, PRICE OF PETROL INCREASED BY 2.7 SA CENTS PER LITRE TO 15.1 SA CENTS PER LITRE (ROUGHLY $1.03 PER GALLON) FOR PREMIUM FUELS. PRICES OF OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO RISE PROPORTIONATELY. AVERAGE INCREASE IS 22 PERCENT.

2. IN ANNOUNCING NEW PRICES, ECONMIN MULLER STATED THAT INCREASE NECESSARY TO COMPENSATE OIL COMPANIES FOR INCREASED CRUDE PRICES AND TO RESTORE FILLING STATION PROFIT MARGINS.MULLER SAID TOTAL COSTING OF ABOVE WAS 3.5 SA CENTS PER LITRE BUT GOVT. WOULD BEAR DIFFERENCE.

3. AS REPORTED PRESS, THERE GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT OIL COM-
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RECENT COST INCREASES BUT SOME PUBLIC COMMENT THAT GOVT. SHOULD

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HAVE SHOULDERED MORE OF BURDEN. OBVIOUS CONCERN IS INFLATIONARY IMPACT OF PRICE INCREASES. IN THIS VEIN, UP (OPPOSITION PARTY) ECON SPOKESMAN EMDIN HAS ANNOUNCED THAT GOVT. WILL BE PRESSED TO LOWER CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DUTIES AND TO REDUCE "EXCESSIVE COSTS" OF INTERNAL PIPELINE TRANSPORT (OPERATED BY SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS AND HARBORS).
SMITH

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GASOLINE, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, PROFITS, INFLATION, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PRETOR00475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740258/aaaaccaa.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAR 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <27 NOV 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCREASE IN GASOLINE PRICES
TAGS: ENRG, ECON, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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